

## **Evaluating Indiana's First Steps System**

Indiana's First Steps Early Intervention System serves thousands of children and families each year, and has grown dramatically since its inception. Because of the success First Steps has experienced in identifying and finding children and families who are in need of early intervention services, it is time to ask the question:

### **What impact is Indiana's First Steps Early Intervention System having on the children, families, and communities it serves?**

To answer this question, the Bureau of Child Development, Division of Families and Children, Family and Social Services Administration, is implementing a statewide, outcomes-based, evaluation system for its First Steps Early Intervention System.

A statewide, outcomes-based, evaluation system will:

- Enable documentation and communication of the benefits of First Steps to major decision-makers at local and state levels.
- Help to expand the focus beyond compliance with the law to include service quality.
- Provide information for improving services, particularly in tying training efforts to supporting desired outcomes.
- Provide the information needed to continuously plan for the future.

You will find the following information and forms at this site:

- Evaluation Instructions
- Family Interview
- Individualized Family Service Plan
- Exit Summary

Each SPOE will be sent a copy of the above forms and some self-addressed stamped envelopes for return to the Early Childhood Center. Service Coordinators are welcome to use the provided envelopes or mail the forms in their own envelopes to:

Early Childhood Center  
Indiana Institute on Disability & Community  
2853 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bloomington, IN 47408-2601  
Attn: S. Dixon/R.Dileo

Or fax to: 812-855-9630

(Both addresses and the FAX number will get the information to Ross!)

Start date is **November 1, 2002.**

If you have questions call:

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### **Child Outcomes**

Outcome #1: Children attain essential and important developmental skills

Outcome #2: Children participate in inclusive community activities, settings, and routines

Outcome #3: Children (and families) are safe, healthy, and well nourished

### **Family Outcomes**

Outcome #4: Families participate as members of the early intervention team and carry out recommendations that help them to help their child

Outcome #5: Families are connected to other families and natural community supports for emotional support

Outcome #6: Families advocate by exercising their rights in requesting and choosing goals, services, and supports.

### **Community Outcomes**

Outcome #7: Communities are informed of and promptly refer families to First Steps.

Outcome #8: Communities welcome and fully include children with disabilities and their families (e.g., child care, transportation, retail, housing, employment)

Outcome #9: Communities provide all families access to health care services